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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/352,949	07/14/1999	KAZUYUKI MURATA	50023-107	2823

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EXAMINER
TRAN, DOUGLAS Q

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2624	14

DATE MAILED: 02/26/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/352,949	MURATA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Douglas Q. Tran	2624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *23 January 2003* .

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-12* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-12* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11)☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a)☐ approved b)☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Prosecution Application

1. The request filed on 1/23/03 for a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) under 37 CFR 1.53(d) based on parent Application No. 09/352,949 is acceptable and a CPA has been established. An action on the CPA follows.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Hosotsubo (US Patent No. 6,009,485) and Tabata (US Patent No. 6,198,542 B1).

As to claim 1, Hosotsubo teaches: an image data distribution system wherein the image data will be sent out to the respective members of the destination group specified by the destination information (col. 1, lines 41-44) via a network (21 in fig. 2, col. 6, lines 21-26), the system comprising:

Input manipulation means (24 in fig. 10), provided in each image communication apparatus (i.e., host computer 22 in fig. 2), which can request the image server to send back all the destination groups, and specify a specific group from among all the destination groups sent back from the image server, and send to the image server at least the specified group together with a group registration request to register the image communication apparatus with the

specified group after specifying the group (it is noted that a user inputs for registering from S11 to S15 in fig. 4, col. 5, lines 40-42 and 66 to col. 6, line 2; and the specified group or groups stored in 25 in fig. 2 and S16 in fig. 4, col. 6, line 55 to col. 7, line 12), and

The image communication apparatus is registered with the specified distribution destination group (col. 5, lines 25-28).

Although Hosotsubo does not explicitly teach means in the server, which sends to a requested apparatus all the distribution destination group names, Hosotsubo teaches a plurality of printers 1 connect to a host 22 through a predetermined network 21 (col. 3, lines 56-61). Therefore, there would be a server in the network for providing the information list of the other connected devices. Also, Hosotsubo teaches the host can exchanges information with a plurality of other apparatus through bi-directional interface (col. 1, lines 46-50) and the printer 1 is suggested as another host computer in the same manner as described to construct a distribution system for an Email or voice mail (i.e., a server for distributing information in the group to a plurality destinations) (col. 6, lines 49-62). Thus, information of the destinations in the group would be obvious to be notified to the host by distribution managing means (i.e., CPU 44 of 1 in fig. 2 and input section 38) of a server (in this case, the printer 1 is represented as a computer server) in LAN network. Furthermore, Tabata teaches a server provides an information group list to the host computer after requesting of the user (Fig. 5, col. 6, lines 31-44 and col. 7, lines 46-50).

It would have been obvious to modify the communication system of Hosotsubo for providing an information group list from a server to the host computer after requesting of the user as taught by Tabata. The suggestion for modifying the system of Hosotsubo can be reasoned

by one of ordinary skill in the art as set forth by Tabata because Tabata provides a communication system in which a sever stores and provides any information of the output devices to a host and allows a user easily to keep track information in a group of the output devices and select a designed output devices in the group.

As to claim 2, Tabata teaches that the image communication apparatus is a digital multifunction apparatus (7 in fig. 1)

As to claim 3, Tabata teaches that the digital multifunction apparatus is provided with image input means for reading a document and sends image data from the image input means to the image server (17 in fig. 3).

As to claim 4, Tabata teaches that the digital multifunction apparatus is provided with storage means for storing image data and sends image data from the storage means to the image server (16 in fig. 3).

As to claim 5, Tabata teaches that the digital multifunction apparatus is provided with facsimile transmit-receive means and sends image data from the facsimile transmit-receive means to the image server (17 in fig. 3).

As to claim 6, Tabata teaches that the digital multifunction apparatus is provided with image output means and prints image data from the image server by the image output means (14 in fig. 3).

As to claim 7, Hosotsubo teaches that the digital multifunction apparatus is personal computer (22 in fig. 2).

As to claim 8, Hosotsubo teaches that the personal computer is provided with document preparation software and sends image data prepared by the document preparation software to the image server (32 in fig. 2).

As to claim 9, Hosotsubo teaches that the personal computer is provided with storage means for storing image data and sends image data from the storage means to the image server (31 in fig. 2).

As to claim 10, Tabata teaches that the personal computer is provided with facsimile transmit-receive means and sends image data from the facsimile transmit-receive means to the image server (17 in fig. 3).

As to claim 11, Tabata teaches that the pc (3 or 4 in fig. 1) prints out image data from the image server by a printing apparatus (5 in fig. 1) connected to the pc directly or via the network (100 in fig. 1).

As to claim 12, the combination of Tabata and Hosotsubo teaches that the method is performed by the apparatus claim 1 as indicated above.

Response to Arguments and Amendment

Applicant's arguments filed 1/23/03 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant's amendment to claims 1 and 12, and claim 1 with new limitations that " Input manipulation means (24 in fig. 10), provided in each image communication apparatus (i.e., host computer 22 in fig. 2), which can request the image server to send back all the destination groups, and specify a specific group from among all the destination groups sent back from the

image server, and send to the image server at least the specified group together with a group registration request to register the image communication apparatus with the specified group after specifying the group"; and claim 12 with the same limitations with claim 1.

Hosotsubo teaches Input manipulation means (24 in fig. 10), provided in each image communication apparatus (i.e., host computer 22 in fig. 2), which can request the image server to send back all the destination groups, and specify a specific group from among all the destination groups sent back from the image server, and send to the image server at least the specified group together with a group registration request to register the image communication apparatus with the specified group after specifying the group (it is noted that a user inputs for registering from S11 to S15 in fig. 4, col. 5, lines 40-42 and 66 to col. 6, line 2; and the specified group or groups stored in 25 in fig. 2 and S16 in fig. 4, col. 6, line 55 to col. 7, line 12), and the image communication apparatus is registered with the specified distribution destination group (col. 5, lines 25-28).

Although Hosotsubo does not explicitly teach means in the server, which sends to a requested apparatus all the distribution destination group names, Hosotsubo teaches a plurality of printers 1 connect to a host 22 through a predetermined network 21 (col. 3, lines 56-61). Therefore, there would be a server in the network for providing the information list of the other connected devices. Also, Hosotsubo teaches the host can exchanges information with a plurality of other apparatus through bi-directional interface (col. 1, lines 46-50) and the printer 1 is suggested as another host computer in the same manner as described to construct a distribution system for an Email or voice mail (i.e., a server for distributing information in the group to a plurality destinations) (col. 6, lines 49-62). Thus, information of the destinations in the group

would be obvious to be notified to the host by distribution managing means (i.e., CPU 44 of 1 in fig. 2 and input section 38) of a server (in this case, the printer 1 is represented as a computer server) in LAN network.

Furthermore, Tabata teaches a server provides an information group list to the host computer after requesting of the user (Fig. 5, col. 6, lines 31-44 and col. 7, lines 46-50).

Applicant asserted that "In Hosotsubo, only the host 22 (corresponding to the server in the present invention) can register a group. Every operation for registration is done by the host, and no commands are issued from the device that is an image communication apparatus." In reply, the host 22 connects with a plurality of output devices via the network. Since there is a network such as a LAN or WAN in the distributing system, there would be a server connecting with a plurality of peripheral devices. The input device 22 has the information of a peripheral-devices group that would be provided by the server connected with those peripheral devices. How can the host 22 have the information of a group of connected devices? Because the host exchanges data with the network (col. 1, lines 46-55).

For the above reasons, it is believed that the cited prior art fully discloses the claimed invention and the rejection stand.

Examiner's Remark

Miyamoto et al. (US Patent No. 6,311,208) discloses the first table of the address management section of the above switch is a logical network table for registering each terminal in units of a logical network in which terminals in a network are logically grouped . The address management section registers and manages the address of the address server and each terminal in units of the logical network and sends the address of an address server which belongs to the same logical network as a terminal to the terminal when the address of the terminal is received from the address processing section of the terminal .

Robertson (US Patent No. 6,269,369) discloses a new second user who fills out a registration form such as the pseudo GUI in FIG. 7, and therefore whose personal information is stored in the tables 350 of the database 340 on the server computer 330 has specified the same group affiliation as that specified by the first user in the College 560-20 data field, and that second user has specified a date range for that affiliation that intersects with the date range specified by the first user in the Year of College Enrollment 560-22 and College Graduation Year 560-24 data fields, the Name of the second user and the ending date of the second user's affiliation with that group 650-16 are displayed.

Nishimoto (US Patent No. 6,199,164) discloses a connection server receives access permission information at the start of the connection of a peer client of the user to an open network, registers the access permission information into a database, and responds the relevant access permission information for a retrieval request from an IP server with reference to the database. By a transmitting request based on the access permission information obtained by the retrieval request to the connection server, the IP server obtains predetermined personal

information as special personal information, registers it into the database, and, when providing information adapted to the special personal information is obtained, transmits the providing information to the peer client.

Aggarwal (US Patent No. 6,154,463) discloses Consider an example of application A.sub.1 registering a discussion group G with an area MSD server located at host H.sub.13. For this example, since application A.sub.1 is the initiator of discussion group G, application A.sub.1 becomes the Gatekeeper Application GA(G) for group G. GA(G) determines the closest multicast router in the same manner as is done in Mbone. In this case the closest multicast router, R.sub.1, becomes the Gatekeeper Router GR(G). The Gatekeeper Application GA(G) contacts the area MSD by sending a GA.MSD.Register request message containing the IP address of the GA(G), the type of group Type(G), the membership of the group Membership(G), and the description of the group Description(G).

Kawaguchi (US Patent No. 5,930,752)discloses A server control unit is implemented by a CPU and provides such a control that speeches are temporarily stored in buffer memories for the associated terminals, respectively, referring to terminal IDs of data transmitted from the respective terminals . There are prepared the buffer memories of which number is the same as that of the connected terminals. The server control unit serves to distribute the speech on the buffer memory indicated by a scheduler to the respective terminal indicated by the terminal ID registered in the transmitting group table and the terminal ID registered in the receiving group table indicated by receiving group ID .

Conclusion

The examiner has reviewed the new limitations of claims 1 and 12 in the CPA filed by applicant on 01/23/03. However, Applicant's CPA have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. This action is made **non-final.**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Douglas Q. Tran whose telephone number is (703) 305-4857 or E-mail address is Douglas.tran@uspto.gov.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

Douglas Q. Tran
Feb. 21, 2003